

more room for the proper treatment of the rightful natives. To our readers we would give the advice that they should at once purchase the 'Birds of South Africa,' as, the sooner this edition is sold off, the sooner we may expect the new and improved one. To Mr. Layard we tender our best wishes for his health and zeal, that he may successfully prosecute his task.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Natica catenata (Philippi).

To the Editors of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,—What is the true habitat of *Natica catenata*?

Reeve, in his monograph of the genus, gives "Sicily," but without quoting any authority.

Moreover Philippi, whose description Reeve copies, in his original account of the species (*Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1851, p. 233), in which he describes it from specimens in the collection of Mr. Cuming, assigns no locality; it may therefore be presumed that none was attached to the Cuming specimens.

Some shells in the collection of this Museum, belonging to this species, are labelled as from Mazatlan; but no authority is given for the habitat. I should therefore be glad to know if any examples of this species have been recently obtained, and, if so, from where.

I perceive Reeve changes *Natica Incei*, Philippi, into *N. Incei*, and *Natica caribæa*, Philippi, into *N. caribbæa*.

Do not these seem rather unnecessary alterations, and apparently founded on no good reason?

I have, &c.,

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T. GRAHAM PONTON.

Balatro calvus, a New Genus and Species of Rotatoria entirely destitute of Vibratile Cilia. By E. CLAPARÈDE.

M. Mecznikow has lately described (*Siebold and Kölliker's 'Zeitschrift,'* 1866, p. 346), under the name of *Apsilus lentiformis*, a Rotatorian entirely destitute of vibratile cilia; and M. Claparède now communicates an account of an animal of the same kind observed by him some years ago in the Seime, a small river of the Canton of Geneva. It was found creeping on the bodies of *Trichodrili* and other small Oligochæta.

The body of this animal, to which M. Claparède gives the name of *Balatro calvus*, is more or less vermiform and very contractile. Its posterior extremity (foot) is divided into two lobes, of which the ventral is semilunar, with acute angles which are capable of invagination. The dorsal lobe forms a flattened cylinder terminated by three mammillæ. Between the two lobes the anus is situated.

The anterior extremity, which is indistinctly annulated, is capable of retraction as in other Rotatoria. The mastax is not largely developed and is armed with a very small incus and with two curved

mallei; it opens directly into a thick-walled intestine, the inner layer of which is brownish. This intestine is more simple than in the Rotatoria generally; it extends in a straight line from the mouth to the anus, and its narrowed anterior part scarcely merits the name of œsophagus. No glands were observed in connexion with the stomach. When the animal is extended the curved mallei project externally.

All the individuals observed were females. The ovary occupies the ventral portion of the body, beneath the intestine; the mature ova are ovoid, and occupy the posterior extremity of the body.

M. Claparède characterizes his genus *Balatro* as follows:—Body vermiform, very contractile; posterior extremity terminated by two lobes: one ventral, of a semilunar form, transverse; the other dorsal, nearly cylindrical, acting as a foot. Mallei in the form of crooks. No vibratile organs; no eyes.

Besides *Apsilus* and *Balatro*, *Taphrocampa* of Gosse is a genus of Rotatoria destitute of vibratile cilia. Mr. Gosse placed it originally near *Notommata* and *Furcularia*, but has since removed it to the neighbourhood of *Cheetonotus* among the Gastrotricha. In this M. Claparède thinks he is wrong, as *Taphrocampa* possesses a mastax the structure of which is very near that of the *Furculariæ* and *Mocercaæ*.

M. Dujardin also describes his genus *Lindia* as destitute of cilia; and M. Claparède regards it as nearly allied to his *Balatro*, which is still more closely related to *Albertia* (Duj.).—*Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, série 5, tome viii. pp. 12–16.

Occurrence of Terebratula (Waldheimia) pseudo-jurensis (Leymerie) in England. By J. F. WALKER, B.A., F.G.S. &c.

Among the Brachiopoda which I have obtained from the Lower Greensand deposit at Upware, Cambridgeshire, I detected a species which, on examination, proved to be the *Terebratula pseudo-jurensis* described by M. Leymerie (Mém. Soc. Géol. Fr. 1842, tome v. p. 12) from the Neocomian beds of France. Mr. Keeping has also obtained specimens of this fossil for the Woodwardian Museum. As the species had not previously been discovered in this country, I thought that a notice of its occurrence would have some interest for the readers of the 'Annals.'

The inspection of the loop proves that this species is a *Waldheimia*.

Fossil Ivory.

The ivory of Mammoth-tusks is an article of trade peculiar to Siberia. Although forming too slight an item to be taken into consideration in the statistical returns of the trade of Russia, still, as this ivory formed one of the earliest articles of export from Siberia to China, the few statistics I have been able to collect with reference to this curiosity of commerce may not be without interest.

About 40,000 lbs. of fossil ivory (that is to say, the tusks of at least 100 mammoths) are bartered for every year in New Siberia, so